WEATHER TODAY'S FORECAST
43° HIGH
32° LOW

'It's a blessing'
» Lifestyle, C1



Knights advance to semifinals
» Sports, A4

ACH girls ready for season
» Sports, A4

85 Years SERVING THE COLUMBIA BASIN
Columbia Basin Herald
LOCAL NEWS Local life!
AMERICA 250
www.columbiabasinherald.com COULEE CITY • EPHRATA • GEORGE • MATTAWA • MOSES LAKE • OTHELLO • ROYAL CITY • SOAP LAKE • QUINCY • WARDEN • WILSON CREEK
Download the CBH local news app | Tuesday, November 24, 2026 | @the_CBH | facebook.com/cbherald | $1



JOEL MARTIN/COLUMBIA BASIN HERALD

The dirt prepares to fly at the groundbreaking for the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project Monday east of Moses Lake. From left to right: Bernie O'Donnell, President, Rock Project Management Services; Caleb Skjervem, Program Manager, Jacobs; Kim Detrolio, Director, Finance and Administration, Port of Moses Lake; Lisa Couret, COO, Rock Project Management Services; Senator Judy Warnick; Stroud Kunkle, Port of Moses Lake Commission President; Darrin Jackson, Commissioner, Port of Moses Lake; Kent Jones, Commissioner, Port of Moses Lake; Danielle Escamilla, Western Pacific Engineering; Travis Rawling, Senior Vice President, Martinus; Dan Roach, Executive Director, Port of Moses Lake.

'Working on the railroad'

Port of Moses Lake rail project breaks ground

By JOEL MARTIN
Staff Writer

MOSES LAKE — A longstanding dream rolled closer to reality Monday as the Port of Moses Lake broke ground on its Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project.

"The rail project before us today is not a new idea," said Port Finance and Administration Director Kim Detrolio. "It represents decades of vision, planning and commitment … The port has had eight executive directors, and seven of those directors have worked to move the project forward."

Due to the chilly weather, most of the celebration took place in the warmth of the Grant County International Airport, followed by a caravan of vehicles to the groundbreaking site off Wheeler Road east of Moses Lake. The ceremony was attended by port commissioners and staff, elected officials and representatives of the various entities that have worked to bring the project to fruition since 1996.

"It's been a long time working on the railroad," said Port Commissioner Kent Jones.

The project involves construction of 4.7 miles of new railroad spur and improvements to 2.7 miles of existing rail, Detrolio said. The Washington State Department of Transportation completed a feasibility study in 2006 and estimated the cost of the project at $11.5 million.

See RAILROAD, A2



NANCE BESTON/COLUMBIA BASIN HERALD

Two volunteers load a car with all the Thanksgiving fixings Monday morning during the Moses Lake Food Bank Thanksgiving food distribution. Food bank administrators said they expected to serve around 1,500 to 1,600 families throughout Thanksgiving week.

'The food is going to people that are in need'

Hundreds receive Thanksgiving meals through Moses Lake Food Bank distribution

By NANCE BESTON
Staff Writer

MOSES LAKE — Hundreds of vehicles wound through neighborhoods surrounding the Moses Lake Food Bank Monday morning as volunteers worked to ensure families had food on the table this Thanksgiving.

Cars steadily moved through the distribution line, where volunteers loaded trunks and back seats with turkeys, chickens, produce, eggs, bread and other holiday staples.

Food bank administrators previously said they expected to serve between 1,500 and 1,600 families throughout Thanksgiving week through the special distribution and regular food bank services.

While some volunteers focused on keeping the line moving, others chatted with recipients and wished them a happy Thanksgiving. At least one family gave back in its own way, handing volunteers homemade thank-you cards that included gift cards as a gesture of appreciation.

See FOOD, A2

Gas prices fall ahead of Thanksgiving as millions prepare to hit the road

Officials urge caution, seatbelts and sober driving during the holidays

By NANCE BESTON
Staff Writer

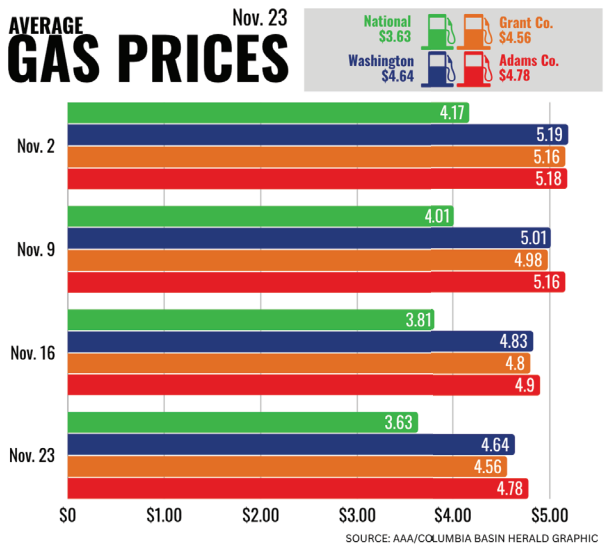
MOSES LAKE — Drivers in Grant and Adams counties are seeing some relief at the pump just in time for Thanksgiving travel, with gasoline prices continuing a downward trend that has persisted since early November and reversing the highs seen during much of 2026.

According to weekly fuel price data, the average price of regular unleaded gasoline in Washington state fell to $4.64 per gallon Nov. 23, down from $4.83 a week earlier and significantly below the state's October average of $5.41 per gallon.

The national average also continued to decline, dropping from $3.81 per gallon Nov. 16 to $3.63 per gallon Nov. 23, a decrease of 18 cents in a single week.

Locally, drivers in Grant County saw average prices fall from $4.80 per gallon Nov. 16

See GAS, A3



SOURCE: AAA/COLUMBIA BASIN HERALD GRAPHIC

» LOCAL
Crime
Gunfire complaint leads to arrest, recovery of stolen gun. **A3**

» LIFESTYLE
Economy
Thanksgiving meals cost more this year, Farm Bureau says. **C1**

Classifieds ...C4 Crossword ...C2 Lottery A2
Comics.....A6 Horoscope...C2 Weather.....A2

We have a lot to talk about ...
SUBSCRIBE TODAY. CALL 509-765-8882

8 36118 00016 4